



SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

Edwin J. Gourley, 1927, 1929

1879-1956

Local boy Edwin Johnson Gourley was THE driving force behind the Santa Barbara Yacht Club during most of its golden years. At the turn of the century, he worked in the post office when he wasn't sailing. Captain Ed's enthusiasm spurred the interest of the business community to understand the importance of the harbor and the Yacht Club to the city. He organized fundraisers to buy a club boat and held meetings on issues affecting the sailors. During the "silent years" of the Yacht Club from 1913- 1918, Ed or his brother (Captain George Gourley) often acted as the unofficial head of the organization. In 1919, Ed delivered the Yacht Club's new sailing yacht, Caprice, from San Francisco to Santa Barbara. His older brother George was Santa Barbara's first city harbormaster, and Captain Ed followed him in that position in 1934 for another eight years. Ed was commodore of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club four times: in 1927 and 1929, and more than likely was commodore in 1914 and 1918. Gourley was a founding officer of the Southern California Yachting Association.

The indefatigable Ed Gourley in a return engagement, came back to serve his club as commodore for another term. This was after the Yacht Club, already in deep gratitude for his years of service, had voted him Life Membership at the end of his commodore year in 1927!